

**Amendments to the claims:**

1. (currently amended) An electric machine, in particular an alternator for motor vehicles, comprising:

a rotor (20) with a shaft (27);

having a stator (16), which supports a stator winding (18) that has winding ends (78)[[.]];

having a voltage regulator assembly (65)[[.]]; and

having a rectifier, wherein an the electrical connection connects between the winding ends (78) and the rectifier with one another, and wherein the electrical connection is disposed in a rotor rotation axis direction ~~is situated~~ underneath the voltage regulator assembly (65).

2. (original) The electric machine as recited in claim 1, wherein the electrical connection is partially situated between the stator winding (18) and an end plate (13.2) and preferably, underneath a support (84).

3. (previously presented) The electric machine as recited in claim 1, wherein the electrical connection between a winding end (78) and an electrical connection (76) of a connecting plate (56) is achieved by means of an interposed conductor element (80).

4. (currently amended) The electric machine as recited in claim 1,

wherein the electrical connection has a cross section with a first length (a) extending in an axial direction of the stator and a second length (p) extending in a circumferential direction of the stator, wherein the first length (a) is shorter than the second length (b) with regard to an axial direction of the stator (16), the electrical connection has a shorter length in the cross sectional direction than in the circumferential direction.

5. (original) The electric machine as recited in claim 4, wherein the stator (16) is connected to the interposed conductor element (80) and is able to be inserted as a unit into an end plate (13.2).

6. (original) The electric machine as recited in claim 5, wherein a junction, preferably a weld, between the conductor element (80) and the electrical connection (76) of the connecting plate (56) is oriented essentially perpendicular to the axial direction of the stator (16).

7. (previously presented) The electric machine as recited in claim 1, wherein an insulating piece (90) partially covers the electrical connection.

8. (original) The electric machine as recited in claim 7, wherein the insulating piece (90) covers a junction between the winding ends (78) and the conductor element (80).

9. (previously presented) The electric machine as recited in claim 7, wherein the insulating piece (90) attaches a plurality of electrical connections to one another.

10. (currently amended) The electric machine as recited in claim 7, wherein three electrical connections~~[[,]]~~ preferably in the form of conductor elements (80), are provided, which are divided up into two groups, wherein a first group includes two electrical connections and a second group includes one electric connection, wherein the two electrical connections of the first group are situated in closer proximity to one another than to the electrical connection of the second group.

11. (currently amended) A stator for an electric machine, in particular for an alternator for motor vehicles, comprising:

~~having~~ a stator (16), which supports a stator winding (18) that has winding ends (78), wherein the winding ends (78) are connected to an additional conductor element (80), which joins a plurality of individual wires of the winding ends (78) together by means of a clamp-like junction region (81) and is embodied in the form of a sheet metal part.

12. (original) The stator as recited in claim 11, wherein the conductor element (80) extends essentially radially inward.

13. (previously presented) The stator as recited in claim 11,  
wherein the insulating piece (90) partially covers the conductor element (80).

14. (previously presented) The stator as recited in claim 11,  
wherein the insulating piece (90) partially covers a junction between the winding  
ends (78) and the conductor element (80).

15. (previously presented) The stator as recited in claim 11,  
wherein an insulating piece (90) joins a plurality of conductor elements (80)  
together and determines a relative position among the conductor elements (80).